



PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee

Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

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SPENCE APPOINTS PANEL TO OVERSEE IMPLEMENTATION OF DOE REORGANIZATION

Following President Clinton's signing of the Fiscal Year 2000 National Defense Authorization Act, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Floyd Spence today announced appointment of the Special Oversight Panel on Department of Energy Reorganization to work with the Administration on the timely and effective implementation of the DOE reorganization proposals mandated by the new law. The legislation creates a new-semi autonomous agency – the National Nuclear Security Administration – within DOE to better manage and secure U.S. nuclear weapons programs.

“The President has just signed into law the most comprehensive reorganization of the Department of Energy since the agency was created more than twenty years ago,” stated Spence. “Inasmuch as the President's own Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board concluded that DOE has become dysfunctional and its bureaucracy highly resistant to change, I believe creation of this special oversight panel will strengthen the committee's ability to oversee this reorganization as well as to work with Secretary Richardson to ensure timely and effective implementation of these long overdue reforms.”

The panel will be chaired by Congressman Mac Thornberry (R-TX), and Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher (D-CA) will serve as Ranking Democrat. “Congressman Thornberry's expertise and bipartisan workman-like approach to this issue makes him an ideal candidate to chair the panel,” said Spence. “I am confident that Mr. Thornberry, working with Congresswoman Tauscher, will help the committee and the Congress ensure that the changes necessary to better manage and secure our nuclear programs are implemented.”

Spence indicated that the panel's final membership would be formalized and announced within the next several days.

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